

APPENDIX B

1. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring networks, comprising:

at least one network element database, the at least one network element database storing abstracted abstracting interface data regarding at least one network element; and

a processor, communicating with the at least one network element database, the processor operable to: (1) abstract the interface data regarding the at least one network element, and (2) configure a network using the abstracted interface data stored in the at least one network element database.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one network element database comprises a set of data corresponding to network elements.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the set of data corresponding to network elements comprises data corresponding to at least one of routing elements, switching elements, optical elements, and wireless elements.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the set of data corresponding to network elements is extensible.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor comprises a user interface.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the user interface comprises object oriented code.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the user interface comprises at least one of a network element list and a network map.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a network port, the processor communicating via the network port with a network to be configured.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the interface data comprises at least one of software interface requirements, hardware interface requirements, and protocol specifications.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor stores an image of a network for modification.

11. (**Currently Amended**) A method for configuring networks using a processor, comprising:

a) abstracting interface data regarding at least one network element;

[[a]] b) storing the abstracted abstracting interface data regarding the at least one network element in at least one network element database; and

[[b]] c) configuring a network via communication with the

abstracted interface data stored in the at least one network element database.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one network element database comprises a set of data corresponding to network elements.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the set of data corresponding to network elements comprises data corresponding to at least one of routing elements, switching elements, optical elements, and wireless elements.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the set of data corresponding to network elements is extensible.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the processor comprises a user interface.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the user interface comprises object oriented code.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the user interface comprises at least one of a network element list and a network map.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of c) communicating via a network port with a network to be configured.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the

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interface data comprises at least one of software interface requirements, hardware interface requirements, and protocol specifications.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of d) storing an image of a network for modification.

21. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the processor is further operable to simulate the network.

22. (New) The method of claim 11 network wherein the processor is further operable to simulate the network.

23. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein network configuration occurs without having to execute a different proprietary tool for each of the at least one network element.

24. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein network configuration occurs without having to execute a different proprietary tool for each of the at least one network element.